

MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



BLUE EARTH, WASECA AND STEARNS COUNTY LIBRARIES

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Recent County Libraries

In the December 1943 issue of this publication a general account of the rise and growth of county libraries throughout the state was presented. The purpose behind this presentation was not only to record the history of the county movement but also to stimulate serious thinking about the advantages of county and regional service units.

This number continues the story with a description of three of the seven recently established county systems which grew out of the WPA Extension Program sponsored by the LIBRARY DIVISION.

The three county libraries considered on the following pages were set up under the contract system which permits a board of county commissioners to turn over the income from a county library tax to an existing public library for extending book service to all county residents. Three other libraries are functioning under county library boards appointed by county commissioners. These library systems, together with the Lyon County Library which is organized under the contract system and has just commenced operation, will be treated in a future number.

In publishing a somewhat detailed account of these newly organized libraries the purpose of this number is to acquaint library officials, librarians and others with the methods employed to organize county libraries; the difficulties encountered and overcome in their establishment; the contrasting types of library boards; the administrative problems; and the general approaches to county-wide book service.

Articles by contributors reflect the many difficulties faced in organizing county systems. During the period of the WPA rural people had to be informed and then convinced through a library demonstration of the merits and the benefits of the county library. The people then voted on the question at the polls.

Following a favorable vote serious obstacles frequently threatened the integrity of a unified library system. County commissioners and rural people looked askance at a law which made it mandatory for them to contract with an existing public library. To them it appeared like taxation without representation. They were suspicious of city library boards and believed, erroneously, that city residents would derive the most library benefits at the county's expense. Understandably, they resented the management of their affairs by a public library board composed of city rather than rural people.

After the libraries began functioning other difficulties arose. Salaries of attendants, hours of opening, location of stations, problems of rentals and others like them confronted the county librarians and their boards. Rural people were not always mindful that library funds should be expended primarily on book service rather than on salaries for local attendants or rental of quarters.

Nevertheless, these problems and others have been generally resolved to the satisfaction of those concerned. No major issues or cleavage of opinion now jeopardize the stability of the county libraries growing out of the WPA program. Articles appearing on the following pages are convincing and reflect gratifying progress.

The continued progress of these libraries will be watched and followed with interest by many people in the state who are interested in the county movement and its possibilities. The methods used and the procedures established should point the way for both library and lay leaders who, in the future, may see fit to organize library campaigns within their own counties.—L. F. Z.

The County Library

What do we mean when we talk so easily and enthusiastically about county libraries? What is a county library? When we think of county libraries we should visualize that vast number of men, women, and children, who are living all kinds of lives and in all types of communities. The county library is a system of book service that reaches all of the people of the county, regardless of where they live or how they live. The county library is just like any other public library with the county as the corporate and taxing unit rather than the city or village. There must be two types of service—community service and school service, and a very complete organization is needed.

The library is three-fourths librarian. The qualifications of a good county librarian are the same as for any [library]—plus much more. She must have a rural viewpoint and a knowledge of local rural conditions. We cannot emphasize too much the importance of education, training, and experience.

After the librarian is secured and the book collection is started, the next important step is selecting locations for stations and branches. As many as possible must be established at once, with the main library, like a warehouse, distributing books, reference material, and special information. All of the small towns and villages will need branches and the very small communities can be cared for with stations. If the library has an adequate appropriation, funds should be set aside for a book truck, not only to be used in distributing books to the centers, but to give the people who live in the open country and not very close to a station, house to house service. If funds are limited, a delivery truck should be used rather than an expensive bookmobile. Some adequate means of transportation is essential to the life of the institution.

As the library grows, permanent collections will be developed in the branches and be kept fresh with frequent additions of new books from the main collection. The collections in the stations will be changed frequently. All of the books will be on call for special need or demand. Records will show the location of every book, and one copy of an expensive or little called for title can be made to serve several communities adequately and promptly.

The schools, more than any other group, will benefit from this service. Instead of one new collection of books a year, as was the case when they were entirely dependent upon their own funds, the county library is going to be in a position to supply them with new books as often as needed. The schools will have the benefit of a large reference collection at the central library, and can give their students the same advantages as the city schools. The juvenile collection must be selected to take care of the supplementary and recreational reading needs of the elementary and rural schools, and the reference requirements of the high schools. The service to schools cannot be too much emphasized, and this alone would justify county libraries.

The state law makes provision for a county to contract with an existing city library for services in the rural areas. In this case provision for a county department or division is made, with a trained and experienced librarian in charge. Through this department service from the public library is extended to the various branches, stations and schools. With the backing of a well-established library, the initial cost of county library service is not as great as with a totally new organization; but to be a success it must give trained service, furnish a good collection of books, develop branches for towns without libraries, supplement small libraries already existing, and furnish truck or station service in the sparsely settled districts.—*Pearl Sneed, Secretary, Mississippi Library Commission.*

On Supporting the Library

At the moment when democracy is threatened as never before, it is inevitable that our thoughts should dwell on the destruction which has overwhelmed Europe and which daily approaches nearer the Americas.

Not only is it a destruction of peoples and of countries; that has occurred before, but it is the systematic extinction of all liberty of action and thought, which is the aim of the powers now in control of Europe, which demand a blind and unthinking acquiescence on the part of the people at large.

All this is directly opposed to the principles upon which our Government and way of life are founded, and toward the understanding of this way of life the libraries of this country have much to contribute. It is their responsibility to provide for the people access to the current thought of the times; thought not expressed as propaganda but as information.

It is one of the glories of our democracy that we have trusted the people at large to make their own decisions and follow their own courses after putting before them, so far as possible, all the facilities looking toward an intelligent judgment.

Libraries have played a great part in the program of intelligent thought and action, and I look to their increasing influence along that line. They can and should be a powerful adjunct to the upholding of the ideals upon which this Government of ours is founded, and their best help will be given, not in any attempted suppression of the grim facts of life today, but from trying to point to the better way, the way followed by the great thinkers of all ages, those who did not allow their belief in the dignity of man and of his intellectual and moral right of choice in thought and conduct to be extinguished by ridicule, by neglect or by persecution.

The contribution which the country library can make to the cause of clear thinking is quite as important as that with which the library in a large city concerns itself, for each unit of village, town or county life is composed of people whose opinions, whose temperaments, whose reactions vary as they do in the larger centers. Therefore, this library, in this small place, can become not only a bulwark against *mischievous* thinking but an open door to that which leads to the higher purposes of life.

In times of great stress reading as a solace and as an escape from everyday anxieties and discouragements takes on an added importance. Escape we must from time to time in order to breathe freely, but what shall be the manner of our escape? Shall it be merely into the ivory tower of complete forgetfulness of the world's needs, into the triviality of merely making an idle hour pass without thought, or shall the reading time be devoted to the attempt to strengthen our souls by communication through the printed page with great spirits both of the past and present?

While we read the absorbing detective story or the latest, most sought-after novel, let us not fail to realize that these are ephemeral things, things of the moment, while at hand for our greater refreshment are the expressions of thought and of faith in man's dignity which have withstood the acid test of the ages.

This Millbrook Library, so dear to all of us, in the days ahead needs your help as never before. It is a democratic institution, it belongs to the community, you can influence its policy, you can enhance its success.

To do its full work it needs your generous financial support, it needs your intelligent cooperation as a reader, and it needs you personally to speak for it. If you believe that this library is doing a valuable work for the community, say so to all with whom you come in contact. From those who feel as you do, you will receive an answering spark of enthusiasm. One to whom the library means little, you may enlist as an ardent supporter.—*From the Annual Report of Harry Harkness Flagler, president, Millbrook, New York, Free Library.*

The Blue Earth County Library

MARGARET LEONARD, *County Librarian*

Mrs. Margaret Leonard has had a wide experience as a teacher and librarian. She was formerly librarian of the Morgan Public Library which she organized in 1939. Upon the resignation of Florence Powell Wellhausen, the Blue Earth county librarian from March 1941-March 1943, Mrs. Leonard was appointed to the post. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota where she has also taken her library work.

During the first year of the W.P.A. demonstration in Blue Earth County, 20,000 books were loaned. With this encouragement, a county meeting was called May 15, 1940, to form a citizens' library association and to plan a campaign for a permanent library system. Officers were elected and a promotion committee appointed. Cards were then sent to rural people asking if they would join in requesting the commissioners to establish a county library system. When hundreds of favorable opinions and signatures were returned, it was decided to present a petition to the county board of commissioners requesting that the matter be put on the ballot at the next election. For this purpose the law requires that one hundred freeholders sign the petition. (A freeholder is anyone over twenty one years of age owning real estate in the county.) As 108 signed petitions came in from freeholders, the matter was brought before the commissioners who approved it for the ballot. At the same meeting they made a provisional levy of one mill for library support, should the proposition pass at the November elections. This one mill tax which would raise about \$12,000, would not be effective in Mankato, Lake Crystal or Mapleton where a local tax already was being levied for library services. However, the attorney general ruled that these three communities as well as others in the county could vote on the question. Rural folks resented this ruling.irate farmers asked why city voters could vote on the county library plan when it involved a tax on county residents only. "It is taxation without representation," shouted a protesting freeholder.

An affirmative vote on the majority of ballots cast decided the issue, 6915 to 5206, a majority of 1709. The townships themselves gave the tax a majority of 267, carry-

ing 16 townships and losing 13. The city vote was 3434 for, and 1974 against. The county library would have carried by the township vote of 2976 to 2709 without the city vote. But it is true that the three largest towns helped materially to carry the issue even though their taxpayers will pay no share of the \$12,000 tax. But that was the law!

After the elections the county auditor explained that no money would be available for the project until the June tax settlement. Mr. Zimmerman, the State Library Director, who had planned the whole campaign from its inception, was called upon for advice and guidance. At once he stressed the need of speed in setting up the library organization in order that it might be ready to function when funds became available. He estimated that three months would be needed to organize the necessary machinery.

Here it became the task of Mr. Zimmerman to bring about a meeting of minds between the County Commissioners and the Mankato Public Library Board, and to draw up a contract that both parties would accept. The State law decreed that, *if there is a free public library in the county, the board of county commissioners shall contract with the board of directors of such library upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between such boards.* Blue Earth County had 3 such existing boards in Mankato, Mapleton, and Lake Crystal. The Library Board of Mankato was the logical choice because of the greater facilities of its public library.

The County Commissioners objected strenuously to the idea of contracting with the Mankato Library Board. Rural resentment was rampant when a Mankato newspaper printed that "Under the tentative contract, the county would pay over to the

Mankato Library Board its tax funds for the county library. The city librarian will have charge of selecting and purchasing the county library books, with the help of an assistant." This misleading statement crystallized the county distrust into three grievances:

1. City residents voted on the matter, but would not be taxed

2. The library supported by a county tax would be located in Mankato.

3. The Mankato library board would handle rural tax funds and select books. The chairman of the County Board of Commissioners threatened to go to the legislature then in session to have the law changed permitting the appointment of a county library board. Mr. Zimmerman counteracted this move with the proposal that the commissioners appoint a county advisory board made up of representatives from each commissioner's district. Another commissioner suggested that if the city library would supervise the county set-up, he could see no reason for two sets of books. Another commissioner stated that since the two library funds were raised by two different taxes, the two collections of books would have to be separate so "the people would be getting exactly what they paid for."

The Mankato Board was also not too receptive to the idea of a contract due partly to the anticipated objections by rural people. Moreover, its members, business and professional men, were already burdened with civic duties. The only remuneration for the city people would be a nominal sum for rental of space, and a five cent fee for each book borrowed from the city collection by rural people. But the Board was willing to cooperate in the interests of county-wide library service.

During the next three months the commissioners had meetings with themselves, with the State Library Director, with the Mankato Board, with the county attorney, and city attorney; with groups from Mapleton and Lake Crystal and the old W.P.A. library committee. They were eventually convinced that under the present state law their only recourse was to contract with Mankato. Finally, on March 6, 1941, the contract was signed, authorizing Mankato

to set up and administer the county library, and a librarian, Mrs. Florence Wellhausen, was appointed to organize county service.

Terms of the contract provide that the headquarters for the county library are to be in the Mankato public library building; the county to pay the public library a nominal rental for space including heat, light, and janitor service. It was pointed out that the county could not acquire and maintain a library building anywhere else for any similar sum.

Under this contract Blue Earth County was spared the necessity of duplicating existing resources. With the privilege of using Mankato's reference books, more money was made available for other types of books. Also a saving is constantly effected on purchase of professional library tools, indices, and periodicals.

County residents are given *free* access to all resources of the public library's 32,500 books, its reading rooms, reference service, magazine collection, and pamphlet files. Books requested but not available in the county collection may be borrowed from the city library for a fee of five cents per volume, which amount is assessed against the county book fund. This obviates duplication of book collections. A title seldom requested such as Weber's *Church Symbolism*, costing \$7.50, or Forsyth's *20th Century ceramics*, costing \$5.00, or similar books with limited appeal, may be borrowed by the county library at a cost to itself of five cents per copy. Besides the original purchase cost of such books, it is unwise to clutter the county library's shelves with titles that may be read once or twice, maybe never. The county library aims to supply the recreational and how-to-do type of book of general appeal and to draw upon the public library for more specialized works.

Because of rural mistrust, and the fact that the commissioners insisted upon a strict cost accounting of expenditures in the interests of county people, it was imperative, therefore, to segregate both public and county library funds. Thus Article 6 in the contract states that "Bills are to be approved by the Public Library Board and then submitted to the County Board of Commissioners for payment out of the

Library Fund, which is to be kept by the County Board. The librarian shall file semi-annual reports to the County Board showing the progress of library extension work, and all expenditures made from the fund."

This contract continues in force from year to year. If, at the end of the calendar year either party wishes to withdraw, he may do so by serving a written notice upon the other party ninety days before the termination.

The one mill tax levy for 1941-42 brought in \$12,234.78. Total disbursements for this year were \$13,905.04. The June 1942 tax settlement of \$5,408, paid before the annual July report, made possible a balance to carry on until the November tax. 55% was allotted for books, and 24% for salaries. Of the 21% balance, \$884.70 was spent for furniture and equipment, \$658.29 on library supplies, and \$390.25 for travel. Before the 1942-43 levy of \$12,519.40 was made a budget was submitted to the commissioners. Total expenditures were \$9,286.46. Due to the fact that station attendants had gone on the county payroll, 40% went for salaries, 45.4% for books, 5% for rent, and the remaining 9.6% included book rental \$64.75, supplies \$137.83, and travel \$291.40. With a surplus of over \$3,000 the county librarian had hoped to earmark this sum for post war expenditure. However, as the Commissioners decided that this presented legal difficulties, the amount was absorbed by the County Treasurer, with the statement, "If it is needed, you may requisition it." The moral to librarians here is, "Spend while ye may, for tomorrow is another day."

The school library contracts have paid \$512.90 in the initial year, 1943-44. This is kept in a separate fund to establish a permanent school library collection.

The Public Library Board is the legal board. It is responsible for all policies. It signs all bills and discusses future plans of the librarian. However, the county librarian acquaints the commissioners with work being done and seeks their approval for future projects.

The librarian of the Mankato Public Library is nominally head of the county system as well as of the public library, but there is a county librarian who is appointed

by the Public Library Board to be directly in charge of the county library and who is given a free hand to set up and develop county library service. Her sole aim is to serve county interests. The county librarian directs work in the main office and in the field. She is both publicity and promotion agent for the county library. She selects and orders all books, apportions their distribution, delivers them to stations, and maintains a balanced, live book collection in each. She compiles reading lists for stations, schools, special groups, and locates material for club papers. She plans and conducts reading clubs for children during the summer months. She meets with the Public Library Board each month, submitting reports on finance, circulation and work done. She is the contact between the Public Library Board, the Commissioners, the station attendants and the readers themselves.

The assistant county librarian is in charge of headquarters when the county librarian is out in the field. She catalogs all books, and files catalog cards. She assists in reference work and types all office reports.

The clerk keeps circulation statistics for schools and stations. She checks all books in and out of the office. The clerk also processes new books, repairs, mends and cleans older books, and makes attractive posters.

Mankato, the county seat and the largest city in Blue Earth County, is the logical trading center. Rural people converge here for its theatres, shops, lodges, and teachers' college. Consequently the headquarters of the county library are located in Mankato. The room, which is large and well-lighted with 12 windows, is in the basement of the public library. Flourescent lights have been added. The equipment purchased has been planned for permanent use in any location. It includes standard light oak bookshelves, desks, and catalog files. A good typewriter and mimeograph machine were purchased. War shortages are now retarding acquisition of comfortable reading table and chairs.

The main problem in organizing stations is to find suitable locations. Books must be accessible and well displayed. As no rentals are paid, busy storekeepers must be persuaded to house and keep books in a promi-

nent place. The second problem is to secure capable attendants. Intelligent, well-read helpers willing to work for twenty-five cents an hour are difficult to find today. Too many feel that Kathleen Norris and Zane Grey stories are sufficient, any non-fiction book with a Dewey class number is no good and should be pushed into the darkest corner. This difficulty is interwoven with the third problem for the county librarian—to see that the right books are reaching the right people. Different localities have different reading requirements. As attendants seldom have a reading background, the librarian must contact the readers, learn their tastes, and fill their needs.

Under W.P.A. full time paid attendants were assigned to larger stations. All was rosy while federal funds were paying the bills. When W.P.A. was terminated in 1943, these workers expected to be retained on the county payroll on the same wage schedule. Several stations expected rent. Smaller stations because they had formerly been given no W.P.A. aid felt that they should receive a "cut" from the county tax fund. "Mankato is getting rent for county library space, why shouldn't we? We are the taxpayers." Three store owners with stations threatened to throw out the library books. One man demanded six months back rent. The Garden City station was closed, and the books returned to Mankato. Letters asking for salaries and rent were written to the Mankato Board and to the Commissioners who felt that to assume a large overhead of rent and salaries at fourteen stations would have defeated the purpose of a county library.

It was just at this time, March 1943, that the writer was appointed as librarian. After she had made a complete survey of the prevailing situation, full authority was given her by the Library Board and the Commissioners to establish a definite and consistent administrative policy in these matters.

Libraries are located in small towns, trading centers, or points where rural people congregate. Amboy station, housed in the post office, is the largest, having an average circulation of 1300 books a month. A paid attendant works thirty-six hours a week. Three stations are in small town grocery

stores and three in crossroad stores. Other locations are a drug store, bank, school house, barber shop, repair shop, private home, and country church parsonage.

Stations are of four types:

—Type 1 are those in which a uniform rate of twenty five cents an hour, twenty hours a week is paid to attendants working definite hours. Workers must be responsible for return of books, collection of fines, and must mail in requests and circulation reports. This applies to the larger stations.

—Type 2 are those in which average circulation determines the size of a flat service fee. The payee has the same responsibilities as in Type 1. These small stations are located in stores where the manager furnishes service during business hours.

—Type 3 are those serviced by store owners. These are paid from \$2.00-\$4.00 a month for service rendered. Less service is expected, but circulation reports are necessary.

—Type 4 are those operated on a voluntary basis. Where space and service are donated and hours are irregular, the county librarian must at times assume responsibility of counting circulation and of obtaining overdue books. At no place in the county has rent been paid or promised.

The librarian must furnish a car for county work and delivery service. A five cent mileage fee is allowed. Books packed on seats, in the trunk, and under driver's feet are carried to and from stations. The larger stations are visited every week or ten days, smaller stations at least once a month. The librarian brings in fifty to seventy-five books each visit and returns read-out or unpopular copies. Titles in demand are left at stations as long as popular.

At present, with 11,000 books in the union collection, 5,000 are in stations and 2,000 at rural schools. Amboy averages 850 books in its collection, medium stations keep 450 to 600 books, smaller towns 200 books, while crossroads stores have 100 to 125. About 50% of station books are juvenile titles. Since contracting with rural schools, the ratio is changing to 60% adult and 40% juvenile. Travel books lead in popularity;

current biographies, aviation, personal war narratives, how-to-do books, quiz and game books, and all phases of agriculture are requested. Escape fiction of course must be supplied.

Period of loan is two weeks with privilege of renewal unless book has a waiting list. Attendants mail in requests for books they cannot supply. Readers may send requests directly to office, but usually books are mailed to the nearest station and there checked out to the reader.

About 4,000 books are kept at headquarters. These are largely fiction, classics, anthologies and basic reference books. The collection is constantly changing as books are brought in from stations and schools, and redistributed. Many rural readers patronize the main office.

Prior to September, 1943, the Mankato Public Library loaned books to rural schools for \$5.00 per school. Article 3 in the contract between the Mankato Library Board and the County Commissioners stipulates that the "County library will encourage contractual book service with school districts. Amounts received are not to exceed one dollar per pupil in average daily attendance. This money shall be kept in a separate fund to build up a strong rural school collection. Contracting districts will receive state aid on such sums. Cost, upkeep, and distribution of books is to be met by county library."

With the cooperation of the LIBRARY DIVISION and County Superintendent of Schools, the county librarian started the rural school project in October, 1943. Sixty cents per pupil, with a minimum of \$7.00 was charged this first year. Fifty-two public schools and two parochial schools contracted for service. Three books per pupil are al-

lowed for a one-month period. Books purchased must be selected from state lists.

By contracting with the county library for rural school book service the rural schools obtain excellent book service. Through the pooling of school district funds which are administered by the county library, it is now possible for each pupil at present to obtain the use of approximately \$54 worth of books per school year. However, this coming year, 75c per pupil will be charged which will almost meet the Library Division's recommended standard of \$1.00 per pupil.

Confidence and cooperation between the Mankato Library Board, the County Commissioners, and the city and county librarians, has made the Blue Earth County Library functioning under the contract system very successful. The county library is being accepted without former suspicion. Circulation is steadily increasing. School service is reaching many homes.

But the county librarian must have more freedom for public relations work. More time must be spent in each locality. Most of the time is now spent in packing and delivering books to distant stations. It is hoped that a book truck may be acquired after the war. As work increases with the schools, a children's librarian will be needed to care for children's needs in the main station and to conduct story hours, summer reading clubs and contests. The present space must be enlarged to house the growing book collection.

It is hoped that Mapleton and Lake Crystal will soon join the county system. For the same amount they now expend, county service can supply a steady flow of new books. Small libraries are recognizing the fact that county libraries and regional libraries are the answer to their problems.



The Waseca County Library

EVELYN BOWEN, *County Librarian*

Mrs. Bowen took over the Waseca County Library in June of 1943. She succeeded Ione Nelson who, after organizing the system, resigned to accept an appointment on the staff of the LIBRARY DIVISION. Mrs. Bowen is a graduate of the University Library School and has had extensive experience in the Detroit and Wayne County library systems before coming to Waseca.

When Waseca County voted to levy a one mill tax for a county library service on November 5, 1941, it marked the culmination of 70 years' agitation for a library. "The first library association was organized by adopting articles of incorporation on December 1, 1871." The association started with 100 volumes, additional volumes being donated. Since the demand for biography, travel and history was slight compared with the "demand for trashy stuff of a romantic character" the corporation was dissolved within a few years.

Further interest did not come until the early 1900's when the women of our nation began to organize study clubs and civic organizations. In 1901, the Civic Improvement League was organized. One of the purposes of this organization was to establish a public library. Together with the Monday Study Club, organized in 1904, the women of the city began to foster a sentiment for a public library supported by a library tax. With donations secured in several book drives, a small library was established and sponsored by the club women. In 1912, a resolution was placed on the books of the city authorizing the city council to levy a two mill tax to raise a fund for library purposes. In 1916 the fund approximated \$3,600. Plans were made for a building but the city fathers could not decide on a building site. In the meantime, the Carnegie Corporation discontinued their library grants. With the advent of World War 1, interest was diverted to wartime activities and the city council decided there was no need to continue the levy. The resolution for the tax levy was removed and the library fund was believably used in a street paving project.

Until the days of the formation of the W.P.A., the club women had lost most of

their interest. Janesville, a community of about 1,100 people, where the Carnegie grant was obtained, was the only village in Waseca County which had library service.

Residents of Waseca County organized the Waseca County Citizens' Library Association on March 27, 1939, and on April 13, the first W.P.A. Demonstration station was opened in the parsonage of the Bethel and Immanuel Methodist Church in Blooming Grove township. The city council in Waseca was not favorable to the library movement. After overcoming many difficulties, the W.P.A. Library Station was opened in the Rest Room at the City Hall on May 1st and was supplemented by the antiquated collection of books which were the remnants of the library efforts of the Waseca club women. At the same time stations were opened in New Richland, Otisco and Waldorf.

In January and February of 1940, a group of club women from the League of Women Voters, Monday Study Club and W.C.T.U. attended several meetings of the city council with the result that the city council put a proposal for a one mill tax for the library on the ballot of the city election of 1940. The League worked to stimulate voters and to everyone's surprise the issue was carried by a two-to-one majority. Local newspapers ran an article giving the results of the election—"Library wins city approval by landslide." The election was one of the most exciting for many years chiefly because of interest in the library. 1211 votes were cast in favor, 550 dissenting votes. Club women then urged the Mayor to appoint a City Library Board. At the first meeting following the city election the new library ordinance was read. "Under the provisions, control will be invested in a nine-man board, appointed by the Mayor, subject to the ap-

proval of the council. Board to have authority to lease library rooms, draw up by-laws and direct expenditures."

Every possible opportunity was then used to arouse sentiment for the establishment of a County Library. Mr. Zimmerman, who was present at a board meeting, explained the problem before the county in effecting a permanent County Library system, with the county seat as the logical site for headquarters. A petition with the signatures of 100 freeholders was presented to the County Board of Commissioners in August 1941. They voted to place the question of a one mill tax for library service on the ballot at the general election to be held on November 5, 1941. Again the issue carried by a two-to-one vote.

At each successive meeting of the Library Board, the contract with the County Board was discussed. Representatives of the city met with the Commissioners, representatives of the Commissioners met with the Library Board, drawing up and revising a contract. Finally in December 1942, the contract for library service throughout the county, between the Board of County Commissioners and the Library Board of the City of Waseca, for the years 1943-1944, was approved and signed. The question then arose as to whether or not the County Board should accept and allow bills or turn the one mill tax over to the Library Board of the City of Waseca and exact an annual report for the Commissioners. To date the bills are allowed by the Library Board before being presented to the County Commissioners for payment.

At this point it might be interesting to note the provisions made in the contract which make the Waseca County set-up unique in the State of Minnesota.

1. One mill tax levied on the dollar of all taxable property not otherwise taxed for library purposes (i.e. the one mill in the city of Waseca; the three mill tax levy of Janesville to maintain their local Carnegie Library). The County Board authorizes the Library Board to be administrator of County Library funds.

2. The Library Board of the City of Waseca agrees to use the funds said Board receives from the one mill tax levied in the

City of Waseca, for the purposes of obtaining suitable quarters for housing the Library, heat, light, and janitorial services.

3. The Library Board also agrees that they will not enter into any contracts for the construction of a library building without obtaining the approval of the County Commissioners.

4. All books purchased by the County Librarian and paid for out of the County Library Fund will be and remain the property of Waseca County.

Thus the making of a budget is more or less complicated, two sets of books are kept, one for the city funds and the other for county funds. In making a budget the sum totals of the two funds are used to work out the proportions allotted for the purchase of books, maintenance, salaries, etc., to present a complete picture of annual expenditures. Out of the county funds, salaries, binding, books, and travelling expenses are the chief allotments. Rent, insurance, supplies, building maintenance, with a small balance allotted to books and binding, from the city fund. Waseca County's annual income at present is approximately \$8,000.

All vouchers are signed by the President and Secretary of the Board before presentation for payment. All bills to be paid from county funds are presented at Board meetings for their approval, before being sent to the County Auditor's office. City bills, after having the two necessary signatures, are sent to the City Treasurer. Warrants from the city fund are usually issued the same day while the county requires a second approval from the commissioners, then a two week period elapses before the warrant is issued.

With the pooling of funds the system functions as one unit, thus eliminating the maintenance of two buildings, for the City and County Libraries, individual staffs for both set-ups, and duplication of titles. Thus more books can be purchased, a well-rounded collection can be built up more quickly. Titles are duplicated but no attempt is made to place a copy of each of the best sellers in each of the stations and since through mail service requests are satisfied promptly, the need for duplication is eliminated.

With the acquisition of the contract, the

City Library was forced to move into larger quarters. The City Attorney asked the council's approval, also recommended the engagement of a professional librarian and such assistants as would be essential to carry on the work of servicing stations in the county.

Several possibilities were suggested for the location of the county headquarters—houses in the residential section, a hotel, the Odd Fellows' Hall and an automobile show room. The latter being selected was leased for five years as the preparation of this building did not require priorities. The choice has proved very wise. Situated on the northwest corner, on Main Street, headquarters is accessible to rural and urban patrons. Large plate glass windows on two sides makes for a bright and cheerful atmosphere. Although not a large building, space will be adequate for a few years. In this building are housed all of the books of the county excepting those at the stations; from this collection the selection is made for station exchanges. It is open to the public from nine to nine every day except Sunday.

A building committee was chosen to purchase furnishings. Shelving purchased from a grocery store and desks were the first acquisition. These were supplemented by gifts of tables, chairs, and magazine racks. There is no uniformity of style or woods but the furnishings are functional. With the contract signed, space leased and some furniture purchased, the next step was to consider applications for a librarian. Miss Ione Nelson was appointed, beginning work in July, 1942. W.P.A. continued paying four assistants, two senior clerks (desk assistants), a book mender and a library assistant. The latter, a college graduate trained to process books, was put on the county payroll in November. In the Spring, with the impending dissolution of the W.P.A., the two desk assistants were also placed on the county payroll.

In addition to the original W.P.A. Demonstration stations at Waldorf, Otisco, New Richland, Blooming Grove and Alma City, stations have been set up in Matawan, Wilton, Smith's Mill and St. Mary's. Each

of these is supervised by the teacher of the school.

Being a rural community—the total population 13,890, of which 4,800 is in Waseca, the county seat; 1,100 in Janesville, which still remains out of the county system, New Richland a community of about 1,000 and a few small villages with populations ranging from 50 to 200—it has been necessary to place stations in school buildings. New Richland has the only paid library assistant exclusive of those at headquarters. There, the village pays her salary for taking charge of the community rationing as well as the library duties. This station houses approximately 1,200 books and is open 24 hours a week, a schedule most suited to rural peoples. In Waldorf, 300 books are shelved in a cafe. The custodian is also a member of the Advisory Committee. In Blooming Grove, the parsonage houses the collection with the pastor acting as custodian. In Otisco, space is used in the waiting room of the bank. At Alma City a station is located in a home. Elsewhere—Matawan, Smith's Mill, Wilton, Iosco Township, in schools. During the Fall months a station was opened in a church school in Alma City, but, due to the resignation of the pastor the station will be closed until the new appointment is made. Also in the Fall, a station was opened at St. Mary's in the school building. Books are available to the public after school hours and on Sunday to adults of the near-by church through the generous interest of one of the women who carries books up to the church for distribution. This makes a total of ten active stations serving the community, exclusive of headquarters.

Book Week silver teas, sponsored by four clubs, Monday Study Club, League of Women Voters, W.C.T.U. and Child Study Club have become an annual social event as evidenced by the proceeds of the past year which totalled those of the three preceding years. An appreciative interest was shown in the collection of new juvenile titles placed on display. Many guests took advantage of the opportunity to select titles for Christmas lists. Exhibits have been held at the County Fair. This past year a \$10.00 premium was awarded to the Library for

its participation. Selected lists of new titles, or pertinent subjects with short reviews are published in both local papers each week. These are also interchanged with lists of books taken to the stations. This publicity serves a two-fold purpose—keeping the public informed of new acquisitions and new titles at local stations. Bibliographies on "Post-War Planning" and "Basic Background for Further Study of the United Nations" were made for the Methodist Church Forum. Mimeographed copies of these have been given to the Library for distribution. Book reviews have been given to the Lions Club, League of Women Voters and Monday Study Club. Membership to the latter two clubs has been extended to the librarian. Club men and club women are learning to depend on the library for assistance in making out club programs and selecting material for their papers.

Prior to the organization of the County Library, rural schools could purchase books for their individual libraries using the State Aid Fund. In 1940-1941, only nine schools availed themselves of this money. In 1941-42, five schools, but in 1942-43 it had dwindled to one lone school. Contracts were drawn up, approved and sent to the chairman of each Board, with a letter explaining the set-up. Shortage of farm labor, too busy to open mail, lack of interest, pride in their individual libraries were contributing factors in the slow progress. Out of a possible sixty-nine contracts, nineteen have been signed, not an overwhelming report for the first year, but a decided improvement over the record of the past three years.

The contract calls for a fee of \$1.00 per pupil in average daily attendance enrolled in the school the preceding school year. The annual School Board meeting was addressed in March, explaining again the advantages to be received from the contract, namely, the creating of a large collection which would be kept alive and up-to-date, accessible to all. For the first year, the aim is to allow each teacher at least one book per pupil, the number to be increased as the collection grows.

After eighteen months, the rural circulation from headquarters reached an all time high. Ranging from an average monthly circulation of 250 to a high of 425 volumes during the month of March. Since the ground work is barely laid, the future ventures, in way of expansion, offer a wide choice. What to do first is the confusing, annoying problem. Through promotion of Rural School contracts, many contacts have been made with farmers, but not all farmers are on school boards so there must be still closer relations with all rural people. Summer reading clubs must be organized for the children to perpetuate their reading interests during the vacation. The first and foremost problem at hand is to extend so satisfactory a service to all rural peoples, that the contract will be renewed in December of this year. It is also hoped that in the future the Board which now is a City Library Board, will be made up of representatives of rural areas, as well as from the city, thereby bringing about a broader scope of thought and interest for promotion of better service throughout the county.

Unique Opportunity

"In many communities the interest and enthusiasm of the whole population is not being crystallized into action simply because of lack of leadership. The librarian who is in touch with his community realizes these needs and oftentimes knows the persons who could be induced to undertake the leadership. In this capacity a wide-awake librarian has a unique opportunity, for he may see to it that through his institution filter the interests of the entire community in every subject."—Joseph L. Wheeler, in his *The library and the community*. p. 75.

Stearns County Library

AGNES BROWN, *County Librarian*

Miss Brown was one of the supervisors on the WPA Project and, at the time the Project was discontinued, she was supervising the Stearns County Demonstration. She did an outstanding piece of work as an organizer and supervisor, and when the Stearns County System was legally established, she was appointed county librarian. Miss Brown is a graduate of the College of St. Catherine. Before coming on the Project she was on the library staff of the University of Detroit.

Stearns County has the unique distinction of being the first and only one of the formal county library demonstrations to achieve a permanent tax status without recourse to a popular vote on the issue. After a demonstration of less than eighteen months, a decisive county wide meeting was held at which time plans were laid to circulate to the taxpayers a petition requesting county library service and to approach the Board of County Commissioners at their next meeting with a plea to that effect. On February 3, 1942, a large group representing the whole county and headed by Mrs. I. E. Cornwell, chairman of the County Library Association, appeared before the Board and presented the case for library service to rural areas. The need for such service as indicated by the reception and progress of the demonstration was stressed, and petitions signed by tax-payers from all parts of the county were presented to the Board. The latter were counted and proved convincingly that there was an overwhelming approval of and desire for such action to be taken. After a detailed explanation of the proposed setup, the "sample" nature and goal of the demonstration and legal provisions for the establishment of a permanent system, the commissioners decided to act on the matter at once and handed down a 3-2 vote in favor of levying a one mill tax. This action made it unnecessary to take the issue to the polls.

The open-mindedness of the Board of County Commissioners and their readiness to consider and act on a new service was probably conditioned to a certain extent by continual publicity and promotional work aimed at this one goal, and by the enthusiasm shown by supporters and users of the "sample." It is to be doubted, too, that this success could have been achieved so rapidly

if it had not been for the generous support of the program given by the Catholic Bishop and the clergy. In a county so predominately Catholic, the church is unquestionably the most important single factor in influencing the opinions of the people. Its interest in the promotion of worth-while educational and recreational facilities insured its support—an aid that was most welcome.

The understanding at the time the Commissioners gave approval to the establishment of a county library was that the one-mill levy would be included in the 1943 budget, and all appeared to be settled. However, the way was not as smooth as anticipated, for when the July, or budget-making meeting was held, a new problem arose in the suggestion that the appropriation be set at \$3,000 (or less than a quarter mill tax). Upon the recommendation of the always cooperative chairman, this matter was tabled until the next meeting so that proof could be given of the need for the full millage. Again in August a representative group of county residents were given a hearing and a chance to plead their cause at a Commissioners meeting. It was ably presented by people who had the attitude as expressed by one man, "I've read a hundred dollars worth of books this year and it didn't cost me a cent. I'll gladly pay the slight additional tax for this privilege." An indication of the deep feeling of need was expressed by Mr. John Alexander, a prominent business man and large tax-payer, who pointed out that the expenditure of the money in this way would be a powerful factor in decreasing the delinquency load of the future, for the library was already proving itself a vehicle for good in providing leisure time occupations for young people who might otherwise use such time for undesirable activities. It was stated, too,

that this was an achievement which could be pointed to with pride as an important accomplishment when the men and women serving in the armed forces returned to civilian life. Such eloquent pleas resulted in the approval of a full mill tax and plans went ahead for the establishment of the system.

It had already been determined that the best and most satisfactory mode of organization for this county would result from a contract between the St. Cloud Public Library and the Board of County Commissioners, and this had been recommended in all promotional work during the demonstration. The benefits to the county of such a set-up were obvious and oft-repeated. The commissioners asked to contract with the Library Board which was waiting for this opportunity to cooperate still further in a program which had long been cherished by the City Librarian.

After various contracts in use in other Minnesota counties had been studied and the LIBRARY DIVISION had been consulted, a contract that was mutually satisfactory was agreed upon. This contract provided that the Library Board of the St. Cloud Public Library would act as the County Board, with full responsibility for the administration of the library fund and extension of service. The St. Cloud Librarian was thus appointed supervisor of the county library, and provision was made for the employment of a county librarian who was to have charge of the system, with a sufficient number of competent assistants to develop satisfactory book service. It was decided that an advisory committee of eight members should be chosen by the County Commissioners and that this group was to act in a "go-between" capacity, meeting at specified intervals relaying county sentiment and wishes to the Library Board and explaining the set-up to county residents. The contract further provided for a complete segregation of county funds from city funds, and for the rental of space in a building separate from the Public Library but under its supervision. The latter arrangement was necessary because the Public Library lacked the necessary space to house the county set-up. An agreement was made whereby books could be borrowed from the Public Library

for county use at a fee of 5c per book, which was to be charged against the county fund. It might be stressed here that to date, despite extensive use of this privilege, not one cent has been charged for the books borrowed because the Public Library is anxious to assist in the promotion of good service, and feels that the more money the county library has available for the purchase of books at present the sooner it will be adequately stocked to meet the reading needs of the public. While the county library headquarters is housed in a separate building, it is located very near the Public Library and it has been possible to use tools and facilities of this well-established library. Consequently, a great economy has been effected, not only in obviating a duplication of the book collection for books seldom read, but also in the elimination of any necessity to purchase expensive library tools. The advantage is, of course, almost entirely on the side of the county library which is benefiting a great deal from the present arrangement—and this despite the fear that is prevalent among counties that the county seat town will derive all the benefits.

Due to the curtailment of WPA funds and projects, and because of the desire to see no break in service, the County Commissioners agreed to make funds available on January 1, 1943, rather than to wait until the tax money became available in March. Hence when 1943 opened, all seemed to be well under control with plans definitely in operation for the extension and improvement of library service. Shortly after the first of the year, storm clouds began to gather and gain momentum, and a protracted period of rough weather ensued. Criticism of and objections to the location of the headquarters, the policies, the personnel and expenditure of funds were raised, all of which were instigated by a few individuals in the county who were less interested in good library service than in seeing their home towns derive financial benefits. An inquiry was sent to the Attorney General's office to determine the position of the "Advisory Board" in setting salaries, hiring and firing employees, etc. Unfortunately, through a misunderstanding, a decision was handed down, giving it full power. This, of course received publicity and had to be count-

eracted by a correction of the erroneous decision. The corrected interpretation placed these powers in the hands of the St. Cloud Public Library Board, which had the responsibility for administration. The next disturbance was occasioned by the circulation throughout the county of a resolution, misrepresenting the library's methods of operation, and recommending a complete change of policy, control, and location or, as an alternate, the abolishment of the whole set-up. This was culminated by an appeal to the Board of County Commissioners. Loyal county library boosters fought the opposition at every opportunity and a strong delegation appeared at the same meeting. Fortunately for the future of library service in Stearns County the Commissioners showed their interest in and their desire for a good and effective system by deciding to continue under the present arrangements. This failure to win over the Commissioners, marked temporarily at least the end of active opposition. While the situation was very disagreeable, it must be admitted that the adverse publicity brought about a greater consciousness of the existence of library service, and presented an opportunity to disseminate a great deal of accurate information in refutation of the mis-conceived ideas being spread. Wide circulation of this information was facilitated through the cooperation of various county leaders and especially under the auspices of the National Rural Life Conference with headquarters at St. John's University.

When the tax levy was under discussion one conservative business man commented, "Are you sure that one mill is enough? If we're going to have a library, we want a good one." However, the one mill tax is the maximum allowed by the present law, and in Stearns County this yields approximately \$12,500 a year. Since the population of the county, outside of areas already taxed for library service, is about 42,000 only 28 cents per capita is made available for service. In budgeting these funds, it was deemed advisable to cut to a minimum the expenses of equipping the central headquarters, and apportion as much as possible of the funds to the buying of books and the building up of a good basic collection. It was felt that good

service depends on good books and a responsible and experienced staff. Therefore, efforts were concentrated to this end. While relying on the Public Library for the use of books whose limited appeal would not justify their purchase, it is possible to emphasize in our selections those titles for which there is a wide demand.

The Public Library Board employed the writer as county librarian. She served as supervisor in Stearns County for almost two years and was familiar not only with the proposed system but with the people as well. She was to be directly in charge of the county work and was given freedom in setting up and operating the system. In addition to the County Librarian, a trained librarian was appointed to the position of cataloger, and a stenographer was hired to do all typing, filing, and other clerical duties of this kind.

Book stations are opened and operated in the county upon the provision of rental-free space and shelving in a public spot, plus some local supervision of the collection to guard against loss of or damage to the books. In this and other ways, the well-conceived plans of operation used in the WPA demonstration are being followed. Since the budget is obviously limited, no effort has been made to pay attendants in any community, and all stations are operated on a volunteer basis. As might be expected in an arrangement of this kind, there is a great variance in the amount of time and effort spent by these local volunteers in the promotion of reading and in supervising the book station, as well as in individual ability and adaptability to this work.

One of the biggest problems encountered in extending service during the first year of operation has been occasioned by war-time shortages of labor. It proved necessary to close two stations during 1943, because of the lack of housing facilities. On the other hand, eight new distribution points have been established since January, 1943, bringing to 26 the total number of stations in the county. The reception of the County Library in these communities, as indicated by requests and circulation, plus enthusiasm, has been very gratifying and produces a satisfied feeling that reading needs are gradually being filled. The

size of the collections maintained in various communities is dependent partially on the population and partially on the reading interests evidenced. They vary in number from 125 to 400 volumes, with an almost even ratio of juvenile and adult books. Once a month, the librarian visits each station and exchanges a portion of the collection, thus bringing in an ever-fresh supply of reading materials. Those who want specific titles or material on a certain subject are urged to make a request of that kind. Mailing service is maintained for their convenience, the library paying the cost of mailing out the material and the borrower paying the return postage. This service has proven very popular, especially for best-sellers and for materials needed for club and school papers.

Various channels of publicity have been utilized, ranging from annual displays at the county fair to newspaper articles, mimeographed sheets of information, and monthly annotated book lists. In addition to this, a weekly radio program is presented over station KFAM in St. Cloud which donates fifteen minutes every Monday for this presentation.

At the present time plans are being laid for the inauguration this fall of rural school service under the administration of the County Library. For some years the St. Cloud Public Library and the Sauk Centre Public Library have offered a contract system of service to these schools and each library has built up a basic collection to be used for this purpose. It had been recognized that one of the functions of the new county library should be to provide good school service, and that it would be undertaken as soon as feasible. It will be established on a contract basis of \$1 per pupil as recommended by the LIBRARY DIVISION and an opportunity will be presented to all rural schools to participate in the program. It is anticipated that schools now benefiting from service of this kind will transfer their contracts to the County Library, and, in this case, it is understood that the school collections built up by both libraries will be taken over by the county library and will continue to be used as a special collection for the sole use of rural school children.

It is planned, too, that, with the extension of this service, a trained librarian will be appointed in the capacity of school library supervisor. She will be in charge of the selection and distribution of books for the rural schools and will visit those schools giving guidance to the teachers and developing an efficient and truly adequate service. The teachers themselves are recognizing more and more the vital necessity that something be done to alleviate the appalling paucity of books available for children's reading in the schools, and are calling on the County Library in steadily increasing numbers for aid in solving their problems. Efforts are now going forward to that end.

Progress has been made during the short time the Stearns County Library has been in operation, but there is still a long way to go before complete coverage is achieved and before there is a general understanding of the benefits to be derived from constant use of the book service being provided. Constant efforts are being made and will be made to achieve a more extensive and increasingly more effective and satisfactory service. We know that we will reach the goals set for us, because of the progress already made and the interest and cooperation continually evidenced by readers.

Though we who serve as county librarians have our "headaches" and have occasion to wonder if, in view of all the difficulties, it is worth the effort, we cannot long remain in that frame of mind when we see youngsters run out to our cars when they stop in front of a station, in order to help carry books and hear them cry, "New books. Oh boy! Oh boy! Oh boy!" or "This one's for me. Can I take it now?" Such reaction amply repays our efforts and gives us renewed determination to see that good service is provided and extended. We know, too, what one county resident meant when, after discussing the possibility of starting a new center in his community and commenting on other places where service had already been inaugurated, he said, "We're kinda behind the times, aren't we?"

POURPARLER

This department has been created primarily for the benefit of those heading up small public libraries. It will be oriented around queries raised by librarians or trustees in letters requesting information or suggestions. Questions will be selected (and answers given) in relation to their general application to the small library.

Survey Report of a Public Library

Questions: I am anxious to make a survey of our library for the Board. What procedures would you suggest? I think we should examine our present set-up so we can plan for the post-war period. How should I go about it?

Questions like these are coming to the LIBRARY DIVISION with increasing frequency. Because it is so important for public libraries to prepare now to meet the new demands of the post-war era it is imperative that current library practices and future needs be examined critically.

Towards that end the survey published below, which was prepared by the LIBRARY DIVISION on the request of a library board from a small community with a population of nearly 10,000, is suggestive and may be useful to librarians undertaking surveys for their library boards and governing officials.

Physical Plant

The interior of the building is cheerful and the atmosphere pleasing. Redecoration of the reading room has added much to the attractiveness of the library.

Badly-needed library supplies, such as guide cards in the vertical file and in the card catalog, have been provided but the library needs modern furniture as well. Standard library tables and chairs should be procured, also other pieces of functional library equipment.

The library building is favorably located and conveniently accessible but it is too small to meet the service demands placed upon it. The building has no office for the librarian, no workroom or children's room. It does not contain adequate stack space, satisfactory toilet facilities or running water. There should be both a reference room and an adult

reading room on the main floor. A careful study of these problems should be made at this time and plans drawn up for enlargement of the present building.

Children's Work

The library is without a children's librarian, a serious deficiency for a community of this size. Such a person, devoting full time to this important branch of library work should be provided at the first opportunity. The present children's room is inadequate for the purpose, and for conducting a satisfactory children's program.

Book Collection and Circulation

The book collection though small is well-selected. It has been kept in a good state of physical repair, and is one of the best appearing book collections to be found in any public library in the state.

On the other hand, the total number of books in the collection is greatly out of line with the number of people in the community and their book needs. On the basis of standards by the American Library Association, the library should have a minimum of three volumes per capita or approximately 21,606 books. Instead it has only 22½ per cent of this number or 16,851 less than the required minimum.

Statistics indicate that only 37 per cent of the people in the community are registered borrowers. Again on the basis of recommended A.L.A. Standards, 50 per cent of the

population should be registered borrowers. Your low registration may be traced in large part to the smallness of the book collection and indicates that not enough books are available to the reading public.

Receipts or Income

Your library is receiving a 3 mill tax levy, the maximum allowed by the law. This is the equivalent of 70c per capita but is 80c less than the \$1.50 per capita recommended by the A.L.A. The library should have an amount considerably larger on which to oper-

ate effectively. Extra funds, especially for care and maintenance of the building, for special equipment, or for the enlargement of the building in the future, might be provided through a special appropriation by the city council.

Budget

An examination of the library's budget set-up the last fiscal year discloses that allocations of specific funds are somewhat out of line in relation to desirable allocations advised by the A.L.A. Using its standard for comparison, the table below is revealing:

Public Library's total receipts for the year—\$5,070

	<i>Your Library's Allocations</i>	<i>A.L.A. Allocations</i>
Salaries (Exclusive of janitor).....	\$1,971 or 39%	\$2,788 or 55%
Books, Periodicals, Binding.....	1,430 or 28%	1,268 or 25%
Maintenance	1,404 or 28%	1,014 or 20%
Unexpended	265 or 5%	
Total	\$5,070 or 100%	\$5,070 or 100%

Inclusion of the unexpended balance in the allocations would change the percentage somewhat, especially if it was applied to salaries, but not enough to meet the standard favored. On the other hand, the library's present expenditures in all categories more nearly meet the realities of the present situation. As the library succeeds in enlarging its book collection and reducing maintenance overhead a larger apportionment for salaries should result. Then a budget could be set up that would approximate the ratio of 55-25-20, and another professionally-trained librarian could be added to the staff to replace the present untrained assistant.

The salary of the librarian is too far out of line with the character of her responsibilities and with the size of the community. In the light of her commendable leadership and administrative capacity, her salary should be at least \$1,500 a year. Using this amount as a base we would like to propose for your consideration the following budget allocations for the fiscal year just commenced:

Salary (Librarian)	\$1,500
Salary (Assistant)	700
Books, Periodicals, Binding.....	1,400

Maintenance, including janitor's salary, equipment	1,400
Total	\$5,000

Government

The library board through its irregularity in holding and attending meetings has not always met the obligations of trusteeship. Communities are interested in obtaining good library service and would like to have their library trustees conscientiously assume responsibility and regularly give of their time to library problems in the interests of better library service.

The library board has numerous opportunities through community contacts and associations to inform and to enlighten the public about the library's work, opportunities and needs.

While the librarian has done an excellent job, she cannot be expected to achieve library progress single-handed. The full interest, enthusiasm and participation of the library board is required in the larger task of formulating and achieving a library policy for the community and of planning for future development of its services. It is needed in the

building of a library-minded citizenry and in the promotion of an adult education program. The library board could accomplish much through a more direct interest, particularly in connection with the newspaper and governing officials, to secure much-needed financial aid and enlightened public support for a greatly expanded library program.

Future Possibilities

The library is in a favorable position geographically and politically to extend its services to all areas of the county. Any extension of book service to county residents, of course, presupposes an appropriation by the county commissioners. It is here where the library board has a challenging opportunity to block out a program that envisages book service to all the people in the county.

According to law the county commissioners are permitted to levy a 1-mill tax on all property not already taxed for library purpose. If this levy was made, approximately \$4,500 could be obtained which, with the \$5,000 income from city taxpayers would provide nearly \$10,000 to operate a county-wide service.

Recommendations

On the basis of these observations and by

way of summary, the following specific recommendations are submitted:

1. That the librarian's salary be raised to \$1,500.
2. That a survey of the library's equipment and building needs be undertaken now and efforts be made by the board to obtain a special appropriation from the city council to defray the costs of modernizing the library at this time or immediately following the war.
3. That a five or ten-year expansion program be planned. Such a plan should include an addition to the present building, enlargement of the book collection, provision for a children's room, additions to the staff and larger salaries.
4. That a study be made of the library's most pressing current needs, and that budget allocations for the present be made on the basis of those needs.
5. That the library trustees attend board meetings regularly and participate more actively in the directions and business of the library.
6. That the board give serious thought and study to the advisability of formulating a program for the establishment of a library system to serve the entire county.

Books Are Weapons

At the outset the totalitarian countries realized the power and influence of books. The Nazi fear books and their ideas, so they burnt them. Great Britain realized that books and libraries were essential in maintaining morale and keeping the civilians informed, but only after a year's bitter experience. In a debate of October 23, 1941, in the House of Lords, Lord Elton said, "In this grim struggle we are not going to come through in the last resort merely because we have tanks and aeroplanes; we are going to come through because we have courage and ideas and faith and intelligence; and for all these we need books. Books, are, in fact, weapons of war." The national government not only restored its financial support to public libraries but provided for their expansion.

In the United States, President Roosevelt repeatedly stresses the importance of books in keeping democratic principles alive.—*Frances Klune in her Annual Report of the Chisholm Public Library.*

S A L M A G U N D I

Union List

The Minnesota Chapter of the Special Libraries Association is compiling a union list of current periodical subscriptions in Minnesota libraries. The list will not include holdings but will include all serial publications other than yearbooks, house organs, monographs and newspapers. Lists have been obtained from most of the libraries in the Twin City area. College, teacher college and public libraries throughout the state are now being asked to contribute their lists. It is hoped that the public libraries in all cities with 7,000 population or over can be included in the list. Libraries of institutions and commercial organizations are also being included. Questions concerning the project and lists from libraries should be sent to Miss Lois Yike, Chairman, Check-List Committee, 4318 West Broadway, Robbinsdale, Minnesota.

Lyon County Begins Service

Mrs. J. S. Schnickel of Marshall, formerly a substitute librarian for the Minneapolis Board of Education, has been appointed librarian in charge of county work by the Marshall Public Library Board.

A 1-mill tax which has been levied by the county commissioners will bring in approximately \$10,000 on which to provide county library service to the rural people of Lyon County. The money became available April 1 at which time the county work got under way.

Salary Increases

Salaries in the St. Paul Public Library have gone up from 10 per cent to 20 per cent as of January 1, 1944, over those of January 1, 1943. This includes all members of the staff, and is due to the salary adjustments made by Civil Service to compensate for the rising cost of living and, in addition, to certain reclassifications in the library grades, wiping out certain inequalities which had heretofore existed.

Library Institute

The Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago will hold a summer INSTITUTE ON LIBRARY EXTENSION and REFRESHER COURSES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIANS in August.

The INSTITUTE ON LIBRARY EXTENSION will be held August 21-26 and a special three-week course on LARGER UNITS OF LIBRARY SERVICE will be given August 21-Sept. 9.

A refresher course for public librarians on the PUBLIC LIBRARY AFTER THE WAR will be held from July 31-August 19. Fifteen important phases of public library administration and service will be studied and discussed.

Also a WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS and teacher-librarians under the direction of Mildred Batchelder, Chief of the School and Children's Library Division of the A.L.A., will be held June 19-July 29.

These courses are open to librarians in service and regular university credit may be earned by those in attendance for three weeks or more. For further information, write to the Graduate Library School.

Victory Book Totals

Statistics compiled for the Victory Book Campaigns of 1942 and 1943 show that a total of 18,449,974 books were collected in the drives. A total of 10,827,097 were collected in 1942 and 7,622,877 in 1943. Over the two-year period Minnesota brought together 345,766 books. Among the states it ranked 11th in the total number of books collected.

New Postal Rates

New postal rates on library books went into effect March 26. Parcels weighing over 8 ounces (Section 572 — Paragraph 1-4 — of the Postal Laws and Regulations) mailed within the state, or in the first, second or third zone, will be four cents for the first pound and one cent for each additional pound. Consequently a one-pound package will cost four cents, two pounds five cents, etc.

S. L. A. Holds Meeting

The Minnesota Chapter of the Special Libraries Association held a meeting on April 25 at the Coffman Memorial Union of the University of Minnesota at which time, Miss Eleanor Cavanaugh, National Special Libraries Association president, was the guest speaker. Mr. Melvin Voigt, Librarian of General Mills, is the president of the Minnesota Chapter.

Victory Bulletin

Victory Bulletin, the weekly publication formerly issued by the Office of War Information, is now being continued by the American Council on Public Affairs, 2153 Florida Ave., Washington, D. C.

This bulletin contains activities of the various federal agencies, armed forces, foreign affairs, labor, new government publications and war information. It also offers material on war production, manpower problems, civilian defense, rationing, price regulations, etc.

The magazine is particularly useful to public interest groups, educators, schools and libraries. Sample copies and subscription information may be had upon request to the Council.

Summer Reading For Children

The LIBRARY DIVISION will be very glad to loan collections of children's books to groups or libraries for summer use. Extra children's books could be used to advantage in promoting summer reading programs or when cooperating with local youth groups such as boy and girl scout organizations. Ask us to send you the size collection you can use this summer.

Wanted

The LIBRARY DIVISION is anxious to procure all of the BIENNIAL REPORTS OF THE STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION listed below. The DIVISION will be grateful if any library having one or more of these REPORTS will send them to us.

First, 1899-1900; Second, 1901-02; Third, 1903-04; Fourth, 1905-06; Fifth, 1907-08; Sixth, 1909-10; Seventh, 1911-12; Eighth, 1912-14; Ninth, 1914-16; Tenth, 1916-18.

Scholarships

The Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago will offer two full-tuition (\$300) and two half-tuition (\$150) scholarships for the academic year 1944-45 for students in its basic curriculum leading to the B.S. degree in Library Science. Applications must be in the hands of the Dean of the Graduate Library School by June 15, 1944.

Inter-Library Loan Service

For the past three years libraries in the state have made extensive use of the inter-library loan service generously offered by the Twin City libraries to supplement the LIBRARY DIVISION's collection. In order that the DIVISION may be able to give quicker service to the borrowing libraries we ask that each librarian reread the instruction sheet regarding these loans which has been sent to them and the articles in MINNESOTA LIBRARIES for March and June, 1941. If any librarian does not have an inter-library loan instruction sheet, one will be supplied on request.

When we request books on inter-library loan from the Twin City libraries it is necessary that each title be verified. Much time can be saved if the borrowing librarian, who has access to the *U. S. Catalog* and *C.B.I.* or other indices, would check each title to be sure that the author, title, publisher, date and edition are correct before sending her request to the LIBRARY DIVISION. In the event she is unable to locate the information for the book, another time-saver for the Division would be for her to list the places she has looked so that a duplicate search will not be made.

Delay and confusion frequently result when the borrowing library fails to state on its request that in case the LIBRARY DIVISION does not have the book, it should be obtained from a Twin City Library. When so indicated the request forms will be mailed to one of the city libraries on the same day. Unless these instructions are followed we will merely inform the borrower that the Division does not have the book.

The LIBRARY DIVISION aims to give prompt service on inter-library loans but can do so only with the cooperation of libraries wanting this service.

Gold Star List

The 1943 edition of the Gold Star List of American Fiction has been published recently by the Syracuse Public Library. It contains 630 titles. Single copies are 40c with a ten per cent discount available on ten or more copies and 20 per cent on fifty or more.

Renewals

Package libraries, borrowed for the three weeks' loan period from the LIBRARY DIVISION, can be renewed for an additional two weeks if there is no one on the waiting list for them. They are renewed on request only, and when requesting a renewal please give the authors, titles, and dates due of the books. The LIBRARY DIVISION files its circulation by date not by place as so many seem to think. Unless the proper information is received, the request for a renewal will be disregarded, because it is impossible to search the entire circulation file for the books to be renewed. When the books are renewed the borrower is notified of the date due on the renewal, or if there are waiting lists on those books he is asked to return them immediately.

Library's Bill of Rights

The Committee on Intellectual Freedom to Safeguard the Rights of Library Users to Freedom of Inquiry has revised the first principle of the Library's Bill of Rights* in an effort to strengthen the force of the statement. The suggested revision which is italicized in the quotation below has been approved by the Executive Board of the A.L.A.

1. Books and other reading matter selected for purchase from the public funds should be chosen because of value and interest to people of the community, and in no case should the selection be influenced by the race or nationality or the political or religious views of the writer. *Further, books believed to be factually correct should not be banned or removed from the library simply because they are disapproved of by some people.*

*For the complete text of the Library's Bill of Rights, see *Minnesota Libraries* (Library Notes and News) Vol 12, No. 11, September, 1939.

Books For Merchant Seamen

Libraries which are receiving requests for information about where to send books for servicemen may be interested in giving their patrons the address of the nearest branch of the American Merchant Marine Library Association which hopes to collect 500,000 books for American seamen in 1944. The nearest office in the Midwest is Old Weather Bureau Bldg., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Newbery and Caldecott Awards

The outstanding American awards for juvenile literature for 1943 were made to Esther Forbes who received the Newbery Medal for her story of Colonial Boston, *Johnny Tremain*; and to Louis Slobodkin who received the Caldecott Medal for *Many Moons*. Both awards are conferred annually by the American Library Association.

The Newbery Medal goes to the author of the preceding year's best contribution to American literature for children, while the Caldecott Medal is given to the illustrator of the most distinguished juvenile picture book published in the United States during the same period.

The Newbery Award is twenty-three years old this spring. It is named for John Newbery, an 18th Century publisher who first conceived the idea of books especially written and printed for children. The seven-year-old Caldecott Medal commemorates Randolph Caldecott, a famous illustrator of children's books. Both medals are donated annually by Frederic G. Melcher, editor of *Publishers' Weekly*.

M. L. A. Convention

The Minnesota Library Association will hold a meeting at the Lowry Hotel in St. Paul, October 5, 6, and 7. The program will be announced in the September issue of MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

Revised Book Lists

The LIBRARY DIVISION recently has sent to all libraries a set of revised book lists of its holdings. A new plan was followed in revising them. There are now only a few lists instead of the former 100 advertised in the leaflet describing our services. All adult fiction

is now found in one list. It is arranged by subject and covers the collection completely. It will prove an advantage to consult just one list rather than many to locate fiction titles you may want to borrow.

It was found that very few of the adult non-fiction lists were used. Also the LIBRARY DIVISION felt that better service could be given to libraries and individuals if they would ask for books on the particular subject desired rather than request specific titles found in our book lists. Often the book requested was not the best book on the subject, or a new book had been added which would cover the question more adequately, or the book requested was in circulation. Therefore we have compiled a detailed list of subjects on which the library has books. If you desire a specific title you may still ask for it but if you wish the best book or books on a subject you will receive better service by requesting material on that subject. Since many readers

have wanted lists of books on art, psychology, and other countries, they have been compiled for distribution.

A general booklist is that entitled "Books for Young Adults." It is arranged by subject and contains both fiction and non-fiction particularly appealing to teen age readers. It will also prove valuable as a general reading list for adults.

All subject lists of children's books have been revised and contain titles to satisfy a wide variety of interests.

All book lists have been supplemented by an annual addition list which includes all books accessioned during the year. Since so many requests are received for recent titles the LIBRARY DIVISION will now put out a semi-annual list. The first list will be ready in July and will contain those books added during the first six months of 1944. It will not be mailed automatically to librarians but any one wanting a copy may have it on request.

Looking Over the Mail

(Excerpts from letters received by the Library Division from patrons requesting books)

• "To the Librarian: That book "Ridgways by Renard" is sure good; I can read fiction if I get that kind. *Christina* is a puzzle, it do not halp how much you read about her. Thank you very much for all the books the was good. You will please send me som more."

• "Can you kindly give me some information on inventions? Is it true that the only article invented by women is the 'spoon'?"

• "... Some musicians as Liszt, Beethoven, Paderewski, Chopin I would like to know how he will remember them by something that they have did."

• "The book I am returning is very good 'Three miles square by Corey' is Exelent reading for a old man like me, and the story of the German raider 'Wolf' is interesting, but the Biography of Calvin Coolidge is to much politic for me, alldo Mr. White have undoubtedly done his best."

• "Dear Sirs: Will you send me a list of books our boy, who cannot go to High School this year, could read at home to be of help. Some fresh man book that you have. It would be such a help. We are a large family away in the country."

• "Librarian—Dear Friend.—I received (the books) 3 wks ago. I am asking another 3 wks as I have been in bed all of that time. The books are so varied so fascinating. I want so much to read them and now I am 89 and for many years have had keen delight and intellectual profit from this Library and your kindness and help, and so I am asking a little more time. With real affection . . ."

• "I have some Mexican Beet Workers staying near here every summer. They write their grocery orders out in Spanish. Can you send me a Spanish-American Book for beginners. I would like to be able to pronounce coffee, matches, beans, sugar, and every day needs in Spanish, also to count."

SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS

Bulletin No. 13

March, 1944

Encyclopedias Recommended

Britannica—24 v. Encyclopedia Britannica Co.

Library Buckram binding—\$197.50. 20% discount to schools and libraries, \$158.50.

Cash—30 days, \$148.00.

	List Price	Trade-in Allowance	Net Time Price	Cash Dis. 90 days	Net Cash Price
Americana —30 v. Americana Corp.					
Red buckram	\$164.50	\$25.00	\$139.50	\$10.00	\$129.50
Blue buckram	144.50	25.00	119.50	10.00	109.50
				60 days	
Comptons —15 v. Compton Encyclopedia Corp.					
Fabrikoid	84.50	10.00	74.50	5.00	69.50
Duraclath	79.50	7.50	72.00	5.00	67.00
World Book —19 v. Quarrie Corp.					
Fabrikoid Red	96.50	7.50	89.00	4.50	84.50
Buckram Blue	86.50	7.50	79.00	4.50	74.50

Encyclopedias Not Recommended

Britannica junior; an encyclopedia for boys and girls; prepared under the supervision of the editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica. 12 v. Chicago, Encyclopedia Britannica, inc., c1934-1943. Red buckram \$79.90, to schools and libraries, \$63.90; blue Craftex \$64.90; 6 per cent discount on accounts paid within 30 days after delivery, f.o.b. destination; additional discount for multiple sales.

The committee is not ready to recommend this set to schools and libraries in the state. In our estimation, it is not comparable to the junior encyclopedias now listed, a point of view which is substantiated by the review which appeared in the October, 1943, Subscription Books Bulletin. We are conscious of the improvement that has been made in recent years, and aware of the fact that further revision is under way. However, until the encyclopedia is given an unqualified recommendation by the American Library Association Subscription Books Bulletin, and appears on some of the nationally known and

accepted booklists, the above decision must rest.

Richards Topical Encyclopedia, c1943. 15 v. \$59.50.

In publishing Richards, the aim of the editors as stated in the preface, is "to meet the needs of both home and school," and to present "material in such a way as to make it of the highest educational value." No mention is made of the work as being designed especially for elementary school children, though the set is obviously not a comprehensive one written on an adult level. The first edition of this work appeared in 1933, and has since been copyrighted in 1937, 1939, 1940, and 1943; for the purpose of this review the committee examined those published in 1933, 1940 and 1943.

Any set of books in which the material is grouped under broad subject headings requires the user to depend largely on the index for the location of material. In addition to being awkward, for adults as well as children, this procedure limits those who can use

the set at any given time. The preface states that there is "an ample and explicit index to the work as a whole." The committee found it neither. The page references to numbers and figures were frequently difficult to interpret, as for example *Bombers*, 10-368-C-68-F—as listed in the Index under the heading *Airplanes*. Turning to the subject as listed in its alphabetical place, the reference is given as Bombers, airplanes, 10-368-C-68-F; 7-487. Perhaps it is well that this subject appears in two places in the main index, for there is no reference to either bombers or airplanes in the special Index to World War II. Note above use of the asterisk ("to picture and its explanation only") in one reference and an obelisk ("to illustrated text") in the second reference to the same article.

In checking the information to be found on this subject, in volume 10-368-C, there were three pictures of airplanes, and a brief statement saying that one of them was a bomber. On page 368-D (not mentioned above) there were two pictures of planes, one of them labelled a bomber. One-half of page 368-F is divided between information about different kinds of war planes and tanks. In volume 7, page 487, there is one scant column of assorted information about bombers and bombing.

It is also important in a set arranged by topics to have the index list all of the material on a subject, yet the main Index gives the reference to Chiang K'ai-shek, Chinese leader, as 5-335, while the Index to World War II in volume 6 (if one is familiar enough with the set to suspect more information might be found there) gives a different reference, this time to Chiang Kai-shek, Generalissimo of China, 6-500. On turning to page 500, there is a picture in the center of the page of *Hirohito*, though after reading the entire page, the next to the last line reveals that "the country was unified behind the leadership of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek." The first reference made the statement that "Chiang K'ai-shek led the armies of the People's party to victory against the war lords of the North, until in 1927 it seemed as though they would succeed in winning all China." The above sentences supply the only information to be found in Richards about this pres-

ent-day leader. A word about the pronunciation of Chiang's name, which is given in both references: in volume 5 only one accent mark is included and in neither place do the pronunciation marks for the last syllable agree with that given in four other standard references (Webster's New International, Columbia, Comptons and Current Biography).

Many recent subjects of current interest to boys and girls as well as adults are either absent entirely or inadequately treated. No information was found on Nylon, Commando, Flying Fortress, or Pearl Harbor. The last item is not even included in the Index to World War II, nor is there any reference there to Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, the American occupation of Iceland, Air warfare, or either the Army or the Navy of the United States. The references which are given are frequently too sketchy to be of value to anyone, i. e. R.A.F.—"The Royal Air Force of Great Britain—the R.A.F.—bombed the German naval base at Kiel on the second night of the war, suffering heavy losses. Thereafter it kept mainly to reconnaissance flights—this is, to flights to get information." It was also found that the main index occasionally referred to the Index of World War II, i.e. Australia and Africa, but examination showed these references not to be included in this second Index.

Current information was lacking on the history, government, and social progress of the various countries of Asia, Europe, South America, and the South Pacific, as shown by a sampling which included Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Iceland and Brazil. The information almost stops after 1920. For Australia one short paragraph refers to her entry into World War II, and there is a "see reference" to the Index commented on. The article on India states "India has been promised dominion status. The story is told in full in our Story of World War II." Reference to this second article reveals two-thirds of one column, none of which explains the above statement. The article on China is not recent.

The information on all South American countries has been confined to one general article on South America. The index gives

no "main article" for Brazil, but lists 63 references to 6 volumes—the history reference alone looking like this:

history 5-500, 507, 512, 517
discovery 5-497

A comparison was made of the South American articles in the 1933 and 1943 sets. The text material is grouped into two parts—"In the Land of Andes and Amazon" and "The Birth of a Dozen Nations"; the first article was identical in both sets, the second was identical except for the last ten lines of the 1933 set which had been changed and enlarged to sixty lines. To depend on sixty lines, or something over one column, to bring the history of any continent up-to-date, is asking quite a bit. The pictures are also the same in both sets, but two Reading Units have been added and one-half page summaries on area, location, climate, physical feature, people and government are given for individual countries. The same information is given at greater length for South America as a whole. Dates are conspicuously absent in the section on government, 1937 being the only one mentioned, and that in connection with Brazil. Of interest to many will be the statement that "Argentina is one of the few South American countries that is not in the hands of a dictatorship."

It is difficult to determine how much revision has taken place since the first Richards was published. A comparison of the geology material (Story of the Earth) in volumes one of the 1933 and 1943 sets shows very little change. In the earlier edition, 18 chapters were scattered throughout the book; in the 1943 set they are grouped together. The text and illustrations for 16 chapters are identical in the two sets; another chapter is identical except for the last paragraph of less than 14 lines, all of which has been rewritten. The "chapter" on Niagara Falls, consisting of one page with two pictures and an explanation of each, has been omitted in the 1943 edition, and for it a chapter on "The Everlasting Hills" has been substituted, an article of six pages, over two of which consists of illustrations. In the 1943 edition each chapter

is preceded by a page devoted to a Reading Unit, and Leisure-time Activities. Perhaps these study questions are significant and of value to young people in studying the subject, though the committee expressed doubt, but certainly they are not reading units when books and magazines are not mentioned.

The committee also found miscellaneous inaccuracies and limitations. To devote one volume of a modern reference work almost entirely to retold fairy tales, fables, stories and myths, seems unnecessary and undesirable. The illustrations throughout the entire set are poor, and those in the leisure-time volume are no exception. The colored illustrations are not signed and are so gaudy as to detract rather than add to the stories. The page on "How to make a puppet show" has illustrations which are difficult to interpret, and the directions given in the article, which is the same as that in the 1933 set, are far from complete or clear. The article on Libraries in volume 10, has an explanation of the "call number" which will be quite a surprise to librarians. Aviators may also be surprised to learn "Why a Plane Can Never Get Lost," on page 328-B v. 10. Several bibliographies were checked, and found to be out of date.

The lack of recent information, and of selectivity, particularly as it relates to the needs and interests of today's boys and girls, the heterogeneous organization, and the inadequate index, makes Richards unsuitable for homes, schools and libraries, either for reference use or general enrichment. It is *not recommended*.

SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS COMMITTEE

Ethel Berry, Hennepin County Library

Margaret Greer, Minneapolis Board of Education

Eleanor Hermann, St. Paul Public Library

M. Janet Lockhart, West H. S., Minneapolis

Mildred Methven, State Dept. of Social Security

E. D. Williams, Superintendent, Ramsey County Schools

Ruth Ersted, State Dept. of Education

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

Recent Books For Small Public Libraries

Compiled by Agatha L. Klein

Fiction*

- Adams, S. H. *Canal town*. Random. 2.75.
The problems of a young physician combating ignorance and prejudice in 1820 New York.
- Allen, Hervey. *Bedford village*. Farrar. 2.50.
Historical novel of a Pennsylvania military outpost in 1763 centered around the hero of *The forest and the fort*.
- Baner, S. V. *Latchstring out*. Houghton. 2.75. Pleasant, sensitive story of the everyday affairs of a Swedish family in Upper Michigan.
- Boyle, Kay. *Avalanche*. Simon & Schuster. 2.50. A French-American girl in a Swiss village becomes involved with a Nazi spy.
- Haycox, Ernest. *Bugles in the afternoon*. Little. 2.50. A good, western, historical novel culminating in Custer's last stand.
- Hersey, J. R. *Bell for Adano*. Knopf. 2.50.
The American occupation of an Italian village and their officer's attempt to promote democracy.
- Highet, H. M. *While still we live*, by Helen MacInnes, pseud. Little. 2.75. An English girl in the underground of Poland.
- Langley, Dorothy. *Wait for Mrs. Willard*. Simon & Schuster. 2.00. Sophisticated, light hearted story of a woman's final rebellion against a lifetime of her husband's tyranny.
- McNeilly, M. M. *Heaven is too high*. Morrow. 3.00. Long, rich novel of the Russians in Alaska during the 18th century.
- Morris, I. V. *Liberty street*. Harper. 2.50.
A colorful story of refugees waiting in a town in Central America for visas to the U. S.
- Roberts, Cecil. *The Labyrinth*. Doubleday. 2.50. The story of a girl's contribution to the British guerrilla warfare in Crete.

- Robertson, C. N. *Fire bell in the night*. Holt. 2.75. Mahala North and the strong underground railway system just before the Civil War.
- Seton, Anya. *Dragonwyck*. Houghton. 2.50.
Well written adventure of a farm girl who became a great lady but also learned the dark secret of the Dragonwyck estate.
- Walker, Mildred. *Winter wheat*. Harcourt. 2.50. A Montana girl grows in wisdom and understanding through her love of people and of the land.
- Wellman, P. I. *The Bowl of brass*. Lippincott. 2.75. A good story for men of the feuds in the short grass land of Western Kansas.

The War and Related Subjects*

- Adler, M. J. *How to think about war and peace*. Simon & Schuster. 2.50. The ideas about peace which should be the concern of thinking people.
- Colegrove, K. W. *American senate and world peace*. Vanguard. 1.50. Past history of the senate and present problems in relation to cooperation with other nations.
- Duranty, Walter. *USSR*. Lippincott. 3.00.
Informal, historical interpretation of Russia from 1917 to the present.
- Fredborg, Arvid. *Behind the steel wall*. Viking. 3.00. Internal affairs in Germany 1941 to September 1943 observed by a Swedish journalist.
- Gunther, John. *D day*. Harper. 3.00. Excellent personal experiences and characteristics of leaders and men in the Sicilian invasion.
- Heiden, Konrad. *Der Fuehrer*. Houghton. 3.00. Analysis of the roots of Hitlerism in Germany and a history of its growth and effectiveness.

*All books included were published in 1944 except where otherwise noted.

- Jones, J. M. *Modern foreign policy for the U. S.* Macmillan. 1.35. A study of our foreign policy in the light of present international affairs.
- Lattimore, Owen & Eleanore. *Making of modern China.* Norton. 2.75. Short history and contemporary picture and problems of China.
- Pares, Bernard. *Russia and the peace.* Macmillan. 2.50. An excellent book on our relationship to the Soviet Union by an authority.
- Price, Willard. *Japan's islands of mystery.* Day. 3.00. Useful and entertaining account of the author's visit to the islands he believes allies will take on their route to Japan.
- Reynolds, Q. J. *Curtain rises.* Random. 2.75. Stirring stories of fighting men and inhabitants of bomb-torn towns.
- Stettinius, E. R. *Lend-lease.* Macmillan. 3.00. Origin, development and significance of our aid to other nations and their aid to us.
- Stowe, Leland. *They shall not sleep.* Knopf. 3.00. Penetrating account of military and political fronts during 1941-1942 in China, Burma, India and Russia.
- War atlas for Americans.* Simon & Schuster. 2.50. Paper binding, 1.00. 88 maps and 60,000 words of explanatory text.
- Wells, Carveth. *Introducing Africa.* Putnam. 2.50. Easily read handbook of information.
- White, Leigh. *Long Balkan night.* Scribner. 3.00. An excellent study of the trends and problems of the Balkan countries.
- Dahl, B. M. *I wanted to see.* Macmillan. 2.00. Simple, sincere story of the personal courage with which a woman faced life with seriously defective vision.
- DeJong, D. C. *With a Dutch accent.* Harper. 2.75. The adaptation of a Dutch boy and his family to life in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Le Sueur, Meridel. *Paul Bunyan country.* Duell. 3.00. Anecdotes and legends of Minnesota.
- Ray, Randolph. *Marriage is a serious business.* McGraw. 2.00. Sound advice on creating a satisfying and enduring marriage.
- Rothery, Agnes. *A Fitting habitation.* Dodd. 2.75. Charming picture of gracious living in many varying types of places.
- Spears, R. W. *Making and remodeling home furnishings.* Barrows. 2.00. How to make and remodel accessories that make an attractive home.
- Sprackling, Helen. *Courtesy.* Barrows. 2.50. Good manners and courtesy for the entire family in today's changing world.
- Sues, I. R. *Shark's fins and millet.* Little. 3.00. "An unconventional set of stories of China from 1936 to 1939."
- Stout, W. B., and Rich, F. M. *Tomorrow we fly.* Crowell, 1943. 2.00. Preview of aviation after the war.
- Talbot, Constance. *Complete home care of your family wardrobe.* Arco pub. co. 2.75. Helpful pointers on buying, cleaning, repairing and remaking garments.
- Terhune, F. B. *Decorating for you.* Barrows. 3.75. Guide to home decorating and refurnishing.
- Torrey, Volta. *You and your congress.* Morrow. 3.00. Suggestions and pleas to citizens to become active and intelligent voters.

Books on Many Subjects*

- Bodman, Frederick. *Loom of language.* Norton. 3.75. Readable history of development of language and explanation of various languages.
- Bower, C. D. *Yankee from Olympus.* Little. 3.00. A delightful biography of Justice Holmes.

Pamphlet Sources

Compiled by Ione A. Nelson

American Council on Public Affairs, 2153 Florida Ave., Washington, D. C. Prices vary.

The scope of subjects on which the American Council publishes pamphlets and books is broad and includes foreign affairs, economics, political science, sociology, social welfare, labor, education, Latin America, history, public opinion and religion.

American Economic Foundation, 295 Madison Ave., New York. Publishes: *Wake Up, America Series*. ea. .10.

This is a pamphlet series containing the discussions of the "Wake up, America" radio forum broadcast on topics of current and vital interest that do not involve controversial religious or propaganda activity. Published weekly.

Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, 525 W. 120th St., New York. Publishes: *Theaters of War*. ea. 15.

These pamphlets prepared under the auspices of the Institute of Adult Education are quickly read, factual accounts covering the geography, history, customs of the people and the critical importance of India, Australia and New Zealand, and Alaska and the North Pacific.

National Aeronautics Association, 1025 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D. C. Publishes: *National Aeronautics* (yearly sub. 6.00), *Washington Newsletter* (yearly sub. 2.00), *Air Youth Training Bulletins* (ea. .05), *Air Youth Flight Library* (prices vary), *AYD Charts* (prices vary) and miscellaneous pamphlets and books. The Air Youth Division of this organization publishes much valuable inexpensive material which can be used to advantage with the young air-minded library patrons.

National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago. Prices vary.

"One of the major services maintained by the National Congress is the preparation

and distribution of parent-teacher publications, such as the *Manual*; the *Publicity Handbook*. *Community Life in a Democracy*; *Study Group Techniques*; *War Handbook*; *P.T.A. in Community Service*; *Schools for Democracy*; *Bylaws*; *Parents and the Pre-school Child*; *We, the Citizens*; *High School Parent-Teacher Association*; *Program Planning*; *Guiding Principles*; and the *Proceedings* of the annual convention. Many of the publications are free; others are nominally priced."

National Recreation Association, 315 4th Ave., New York. Prices vary.

A variety of inexpensive pamphlets are published by the association which are of value to recreation leaders, school teachers and any one interested in the development of amateur recreation, handicraft, music, drama, parties, etc.

New Tools for Learning, 7 W. 16th St., New York 11. Order from Marion Humble.

Publishes a catalog (free) which includes twenty-one lists of related films, pamphlets, radio transcripts and recordings on current problems such as: inflation, post-war reconstruction, youth problems, etc., for teachers, speakers and discussion leaders.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C. Publishes: *War Background Studies*. Free.

These are valuable publications on the people, their origins and social structure of various countries and islands as well as other phases of war background information. These papers are not public documents, and the editions are limited.

Town Hall Office, 123 W. 43rd St., New York 18. Publishes: *Town Meeting*. ea. .10, yearly sub. 4.50.

This weekly bulletin is the account of the popular radio broadcast, America's Town Meeting of the Air.

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SUSAN GREY AKERS

PROFESSOR OF LIBRARY SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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